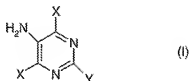


In the Claims:

The current status of all claims is listed below and supersedes all previous lists of claims.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice to its presentation in another application, and amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I):



wherein

X is ~~halogen~~ chloro;

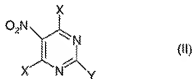
Y is ZR¹;

Z is oxygen or sulphur; and

R¹ is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ haloalkyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl;

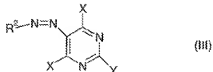
the process comprising either:

hydrogenating a compound of formula (II):



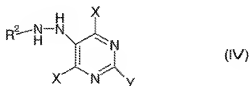
with a suitable transition metal catalyst in a C₁₋₆ aliphatic alcohol, an ether, an ester or a hydrocarbon as solvent, in the presence of hydrogen gas; or,

conducting a one-pot hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III):



wherein R² is phenyl optionally substituted by chloro, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy or (C₁₋₆ alkyl)₂N;

(i) firstly at about 20°C to form a compound of formula (IV):



(ii) and then at about 40°C;

both steps (i) and (ii) being carried out in the presence of a suitable catalyst and in the presence of a suitable solvent.

2. (canceled).
3. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z is sulphur.
4. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₄ alkyl or C₁₋₄ haloalkyl.
5. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein Y is ZR¹; Z is sulphur; and R¹ is n-propyl.
6. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transition metal catalyst for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is selected from platinum, palladium and a combination of platinum with a transition metal selected from vanadium, iron and manganese.
7. (original) A process as claimed claim 6 wherein the transition metal catalyst is on a carbon support.
8. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the solvent for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is a C₁₋₆ aliphatic alcohol, an ether, an ester or a hydrocarbon solvent.

9. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a temperature in the range 10 to 90°C.
10. (original) A process as claimed in claim 9 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a temperature in the range 20 to 40°C.
11. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a pressure of 1 to 10 bar.
12. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 10 wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar.
13. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) in which X is chloro, Y is ZR^1 ; Z is sulphur; and R^1 is n-propyl; the process comprising hydrogenating a compound of formula (II) in solvent comprising an ether at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar, a temperature in the range 20 to 40°C and a Pt/V/C catalyst.
14. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from platinum and a mixture of platinum and vanadium.
15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 13 wherein the catalyst for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from platinum on carbon 5-15%w/w; platinum 2-10%w/w and vanadium 0.2-3%w/w on carbon.
16. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the solvent for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from a C_{1-6} aliphatic alcohol, an ester, an ether, a hydrocarbon and a ketone.

17. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) or (IV) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar.

18. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) in which X is chloro, Y is ZR^1 ; Z is sulphur; and R^1 is n-propyl; the process comprising a one-pot hydrogenation of a compound of formula (III) wherein the hydrogenation is conducted in a solvent of ethyl acetate at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar and using a Pt/C catalyst.

19. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein:

X is chloro;

Z is sulphur;

R^1 is n-propyl;

the transition metal catalyst for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is selected from platinum, palladium and a combination of platinum with a transition metal selected from vanadium, iron and manganese; and

the solvent for the hydrogenation of a compound of formula (II) is a C_{1-6} aliphatic alcohol, an ether, an ester or a hydrocarbon solvent;

20. (previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 19 wherein:

the hydrogenation of the compound of formula (II) is conducted at a temperature in the range 20 to 40°C;

the hydrogenation of the compound of formula (II) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar;

the catalyst for the one-pot hydrogenation is selected from platinum on carbon 5-15%w/w, platinum 2-10%w/w and vanadium 0.2-3%w/w on carbon; and

the hydrogenation of the compound of formula (III) or (IV) is conducted at a pressure of 2 to 4 bar.